

Frequently Asked Questions - Patients

What is the Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program?

The Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump Program is a new collaboration between JDRF and the Australian Government to provide government-funded subsidies for insulin pumps for children under 18.

The Federal Government's May 2008 Budget allocated \$5.5 million over four years to help make insulin pumps more affordable and accessible for Australian families.

Who is eligible to apply for a subsidy?

Carers of children under 18 that have type 1 diabetes can now apply to JDRF for subsidies of between \$500 and \$2,500 towards the purchase of an insulin pump. The family must be Medicare eligible and not have access to any other source of subsidy.

Your health care team will need to confirm the following:

- The child has type 1 diabetes
- The child will benefit from a transition to insulin pump therapy
- The child/carer has demonstrated willingness to check blood glucose levels four or more times per day
- The child/carer has demonstrated competence at injecting insulin using pens/syringes
- The insulin pump initiation will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team
- The initiating team makes a commitment to the transition and a system to ensure follow-up and ongoing support

The subsidies are means tested and the amount of the subsidy is based on family income. A minimum subsidy of \$500 will be available to approved applicants. An additional means-tested component will bring the maximum subsidy to \$2,500, based on a sliding scale reflecting family income.

What is an insulin pump?

An insulin pump is a small computerised device that delivers a slow continuous level of rapid acting insulin throughout the day. It can be programmed to give more or less insulin when and if required. The insulin is delivered through a tiny tube (cannula) under the skin that is changed every three days.

Why use an insulin pump?

Research shows insulin pumps help in the management of type 1 diabetes by minimising the dangerous fluctuations in blood glucose levels that can result in long-term health complications such as blindness, heart disease, kidney failure, limb amputation or coma.

In addition to important health benefits, insulin pumps can make a difference to the whole family – life doesn't have to be planned around insulin injections and children can more easily play sport, go on a school camp or stay over at a friend's house. Insulin pumps also alleviate the intrusive daily regime of diet management and insulin injections.

What subsidy am I eligible for?

The subsidy you are eligible for will vary depending on your circumstances. JDRF can email you an estimate of the subsidy you would receive if you complete the online 'Request Estimate' form. Please

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note that JDRF will not store any income information you provide through the request form. See www.jdrf.org.au/pumps for access to forms and information.

How do I apply for an insulin pump subsidy?

Online application is at www.jdrf.org.au/pumps

What insulin pump should I buy? How much do they cost?

There are several different insulin pumps available in Australia. Insulin pumps vary in price from \$4000 to \$8500, and come with a wide range of features. Your health care team will be able to help you decide which is most appropriate. Below are some links to insulin pump suppliers.

- Animas Insulin Pump - <http://www.amsl.com.au/products/>
- Medtronic Paradigm Insulin Pump - <http://www.medtronic-diabetes.com.au/>
- Accu-Chek Spirit Insulin Pump - <http://www.accu-chek.com.au/index.asp>
- Dana Insulin Pump - <http://www.diabetesnsw.com.au/>

Will I receive the subsidy payment directly?

JDRF will pay the subsidy to the insulin pump company directly.

What happens when my Insulin Pump runs out of warranty?

When your insulin pump runs out of warranty you will be able to reapply to the program.

How do I get insulin pump consumables (tubing, infusion sets, reservoirs, etc)?

Insulin pump consumables are available through the NDSS, like your other diabetes consumables.

During the application process your health care team will complete the NDSS application form for insulin pump consumables. You will be able to use your current NDSS to access the subsidised consumables once your NDSS pump consumables form is processed.

How will I know if an insulin pump is right for my child?

Your health care team will be able to provide you with advice and information about insulin pump therapy.

How long do I have to wait before my child gets an insulin pump?

The application process will take less than four weeks to complete

I have private health insurance – am I able to get an insulin pump subsidy?

No. Insulin pumps are covered by all private health insurance policies, although a waiting period of twelve months applies. Speak with your insurer and diabetes team for more information about how to receive funding through private health insurance.

What if I change my mind? Can I opt out of the process once I start?

You can opt out of the process at any time.

Where can I go for more information?

JDRF has more information at www.jdrf.org.au/pumps. Alternatively, call us on 1300 363 126.